

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein the modulator is mounted tiltably and wherein at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one layer[[s]] of the modulator is ~~are~~ configured in such a way that the greatest possible phase shift is already achieved by a slight tilt.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one layer[[s]] comprises glass plates of various glasses.

4 - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.
11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein for phase shifting, optical polarization means in combination with retardation plates are present and wherein at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein various modulators are arranged on a carrier in a manner introducible into the beam path of the microscope and are selectively mounted, tiltably individually or tiltably together with the carrier, on that carrier and wherein at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is non-reflective.
13. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a defined phase shift in the implementation of phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path of the microscope, wherein the modulator is tilted and wherein the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.